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Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLO US EG
SUBJECT: FAHMY ON PLO REPRESENTATION AND U.S./PLO DIALOGUE

1. MET WITH FAHMY TODAY FOR FIRST TIME SINCE JUST-CONCLUDED AL FONMINS' SESSION. FAHMY SAID MEETINGS HAD BEEN DIFFICULT, BUT EGYPTIANS AND SAUDIS HAD BEEN ABLE DEFEAT SYRIAN EFFORTS INDICT ISRAEL THROUGH UN-IMPOSED POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AND SUSPENSION FROM UN. KHADDAM, ACCORDING TO FAHMY, HAD PRESSED THESE ISSUES HARD, BUT MODERATES HAD WON THE DAY. FAHMY TOOK PERSONAL CREDIT FOR PARRYING SYRIAN EFFORTS.

2. ASKED IF EGYPT AND SYRIA HAD BEEN ABLE TO COORDINATE THEIR POSITIONS ANY MORE, FAHMY RESPONDED THAT BOTH COUNTRIES KNOW EACH OTHER'S POSITION. PRINCIPAL ISSUE, AS HE SAW IT, RE-MAINS QUESTION OF PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA. ALLUDING TO UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION IDEA, FAHMY OBSERVED THAT IF USG WILL NOT ACCEPT THE PLO IN SUCH A UNIFIED DELEGATION, THE IDEA MAKES NO SENSE. HIS EARLIER STATEMENT ABOUT BEING OPEN MINDED ON UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION CONCEPT SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED MEAN THAT HE ACCEPTS IDEA. RATHER HE IS

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WILLING TO CONSIDER THE IDEA IF RPT IF HE IS CONVINCED (A) IT WILL LEAD TO SOMETHING, AND (B) IT SOLVES PLO, NOT JUST PALESTINIAN, REPRESENTATION PROBLEM.

3. THE PLO PROBLEM, FAHMY CONTINUED, IS CLOSELY CON-NECTED WITH THE UN RESOLUTION 242 PROBLEM. IF USG CONTINUES INSIST ON PLO PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF 242, AS

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INDICATED IN OUR SEVERAL FORMULATIONS, PLO WILL NOT GO ALONG. FAHMY GAVE HIS PERSONAL JUDGEMENT THAT WE SHOULD "FREEZE" THIS CONDITION. INSTEAD WE SHOULD SIT DOWN WITH PLO AND DISCUSS OUTSTANDING MATTERS, WITHOUT RPT WITHOUT ANY PRECONDITIONS. THE PLO WOULD LIKE A DIALOGUE WITH THE U.S., FAHMY AFFIRMED, BUT CANNOT ACCEPT "CONDITION" WE INSIST UPON. I REMINDED FAHMY THAT WE CANNOT ENTER INTO SUCH A DIALOGUE WITHOUT EXPLICIT PLO ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTION WRW AND RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST. WE HAD REPEATEDLY MADE THIS CLEAR IN COMMENTING ON HIS SEVERAL EARLIER REFORMULATIONS. THIS IS A FACT OF LIFE WHICH ALL OF US MUST RECOGNIZE.

4.FAHMY COMMENTED THAT IF A DIRECT U.S./PLO DIALOGUE WITHOUT PRECONDITION IS NOT POSSIBLE, THEN THE ONLY POSSIBILITY IS AMENDING UN RESOLUTION 242 TO ADD LANGUAGE ABOUT THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS. HE RECOGNIZED USG DIFFICULTY IN THIS MATTER, BUT SUGGESTED "YOUR FIRENDS" IN EUROPE MIGHT TAKE THE LEAD. I REMINDED FAHMY THAT HE HAD EARLIER BEEN TOLD WE WOULD VETO ANY ATTEMPT TO AMEND UN RESOLUTION 242. HE WAS WELL AWARE OF THE REASONS FOR THIS. FAHMY CONTENDED THAT THIS POSITION WAS ILLOGICAL. IF USG WILLING TO ACCEPT PLO RESERVATION RE RES 242 SET FORTH IN OUR FORMULATION, THEN IT WOULD BE INCONSISTENT VETO AN AMENDMENT TO RES 242 THAT SAYS THE SAME THING. I RECALLED UN RES 242 IS CARE-

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FULLY BALANCED. ANY ATTEMPT AMEND IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL, WHICH WILL MEAN BASIS FOR GENEVA TALKS HAS DISAPPEARED.

5. FAHMY SAID THAT IF USG POSITION REMAINS ADAMANT ON THESE RELATED POINTS, THERE IS LITTLE HOPE FOR GENEVA. USG MUST TAKE SOME HARD DECISIONS, SPECIFICALLY: (A) DOES IT RECOGNIZE THAT PALESTINIAN ISSUE IS CORE OF ARAB/ISRAELI PROBLEM; AND (B) IN DEALING WITH THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, DOES IT RECOGNIZE PLO AS SPOKESMAN FOR THE PALESTINIANS OR NOT? UNTIL THESE FUNDAMENTAL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE, HE COULD NOT SEE HOW ANY PRO-GRESS CAN BE MADE ON ME PEACE FRONT.

6. HE WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS WITH THE SECRETARY IN HIS UPCOMING TRIP.
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